

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) In the World Bank assisted multi-state Hydrology Project launched on 22nd September, 1995, Karnataka joined on 22nd July, 1996 with International Development Association (IDA) assistance of Rs. 26.728 crores for Karnataka. The project is ending on 31.3.2001. Under the Project, the State Government inter-alia proposes to improve existing hydrological data collection systems, reservoir management, real-time water resources management and Institutional strengthening. Since credit effectiveness began from 10th December, 1996, the physical and financial progress of the project has just started in the State.

Purchase of Arms by Pakistan

281. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has recently purchased Main Battle Tank (MBT) from Ukraine, nuclear arms from China and other arms and ammunition from several other countries;

(b) if so, whether any protest have been lodged by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the further reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Government are aware of Pakistan's effort to acquire sophisticated weapons from various sources including, inter alia, T-80 UD tanks from Ukraine and its close collaboration with China in the nuclear field.

(b) Government have taken up the issue of Pakistan's clandestine weapon oriented nuclear programme and its acquisition of weapons beyond its legitimate defence requirements with the concerned countries.

(c) Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on national security and take necessary steps to safeguard it.

Expulsion of Indian Diplomat

282. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Indian High Commission staffer expelled by any of the country during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for which they have been expelled;

(c) whether the Government have protested about such expulsions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (d) The Government of Pakistan has, during the last three years, declared the following six Indian

diplomatic and non-diplomatic India-based officials posted in the Indian High Commission in Pakistan, as persona-non-grata, under the false allegation that they were indulging in activities incompatible with their diplomatic/official status :

- (i) V.S. Chauhan, Attache, HCI Islamabad (12/7/1994)
- (ii) E.A. Adams, staff member, CGI Karachi (13/7/1994)
- (iii) J.J. Singh, Consul, CGI Karachi (30/8/1994)
- (iv) Deepak Thakur, staff member, HCI Islamabad (26/12/1994)
- (v) A.C. Sinha, staff member, HCI Islamabad (1/10/1996)
- (vi) A.K. Wahi, staff member, HCI Islamabad (26/10/1996)

2. Government of India has, in all those cases of expulsion of our personnel from Pakistan, categorically rejected the Pakistani allegations. Government have conveyed to Pakistan that its actions in this regard are totally unacceptable and that use of violence by Pakistani intelligence operatives against Indian Mission personnel based in Pakistan is a matter of deep regret and serious concern. Government have also demanded that Government of Pakistan take all necessary steps for the safety and security of our personnel in Pakistan.

3. The US authorities have recently requested withdrawal of two Indian diplomats stationed in the United States alleging activities incompatible with their Consular status. In a statement issued on 17 February, the Government of India have expressed deep regret at this decision. The individuals concerned were discharging their normal responsibilities as Consular officers. Government of India has categorically rejected any implication to the contrary.

[Translation]

Ahmedabad-Baroda Express Highway

283. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether possibilities have been explored to complete the work of Ahmedabad-Baroda Express Highway;

(b) if so, the details of such possibilities and those which have been accepted; and

(c) the efforts made to complete the work on the basis of the aforesaid feasibility report ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government is contemplating to involve the Private Sector in the completion of the balance works for the Ahmedabad-Vadodra Expressway project in the Gujarat State on Build-Operate-Transfer basis. Tenders for the same have been invited.